

SPEAKER NICHOL: Any discussion on the committee amendments? If not, the question is the adoption of the committee amendments. Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. We are voting on the adoption of the committee amendments. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of committee amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Before we return to the bill, Senator Carsten, may I just introduce friends of Senator Pirsch under the South balcony, her daughter, Pam Pirsch, and her friend, Nancy Guziec. Would you please stand and be recognized. Thank you. Now back to the bill, Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, LB 539 is a bill that is a return bill from a year ago that we passed, was signed by the Governor, and was adopted, but because of some difficulties with some of the people that it involved, there was an injunction put on it and it was never fully enacted. In the meantime, now there has been considerable amount of negotiation between those that objected to the bill and those that were interested in the bill, those that were going to implement it, and it appears at this point that we have it in shape that is workable and can be operative. To speak to the bill basically now, it provides for, first of all, for an explicit definition of agricultural lime. It provides for standards for the Director of Agriculture in determining standards for the agricultural lime. It also clarifies how this will be done versus the old law stating nationally recognized standards. It defines agricultural lime slurry and it provides for definitions of manufacturers, quarries, distributors, retailers, and other individuals selling liming materials. It provides for promulgation of rules and regulation based upon proven standards. It clarifies the adulteration of the product, specifies how liming products are registered, provides for labeling, clarifies the responsibility of registration, and it clears up the question of who pays the tonnage tax to administer the program and provides that all liming materials marketed in Nebraska will be registered. It also provides for standard on rules and regulation and standards that are recognized by the industry. It clarifies the penalty provisions in this act. This bill will allow for the Department of Agriculture to use the same form currently being used for registration and taxing of fertilizers and soil conditioners in Nebraska. The main purpose of this bill